

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GE, GW, CGEN

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: (A) BERLIN 5051 (B) PARIS 00938

1. ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMAN PRESS, BOTH PARTIES IN THE PARIS TALKS CONCLUDED THAT THE VISIT OF GDR FONMIN FISCHER WAS "USEFUL", AND HELPED TO FORM THE BASIS FOR FURTHER FRENCH-GDR COOPERATION IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS INCLUDING TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIES A SIGNED ARTICLE IN ITS JANUARY 11-12 EDITION WHICH STATES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BERLIN IN THE SUMMER OF 1976 WHICH WILL BE PRECEDED BY A VISIT "FOR CONSULTATIONS" OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR POLITICS IN THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS ARTICLE ALSO CONFIRMS THAT A MEETING OF "TECHNICAL EXPERTS" WILL BE HELD IN PARIS IN FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS

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WAYS OF OVERCOMING THE IMPASSE IN FRANCO-GDR CONSULAR

NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE MAIN POINTS OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE TO EXPLOIT THE FISCHER VISIT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CREDIBILITY, AND WITHOUT GOING INTO SUBSTANCE, AS PROOF OF ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THE GDR'S ACCEPTANCE BY WESTERN COUNTRIES. MUCH WAS MADE IN THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "OFFICIAL" NATURE OF THE FISCHER VISIT TO FRANCE DESPITE THE FACT THAT HIS FRENCH HOSTS PREFERRED TO CALL IT A "WORKING" VISIT (REF B).
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